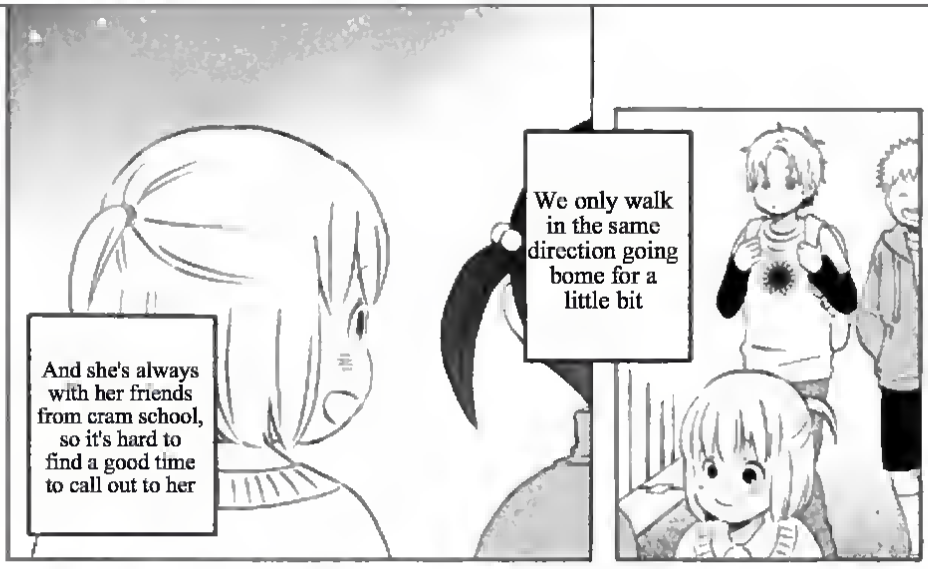
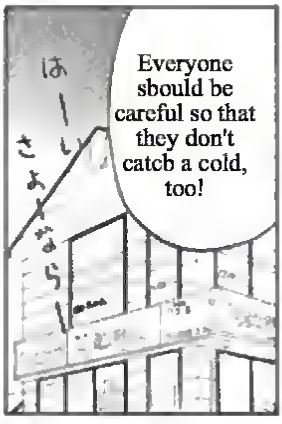
第39話×烏丸くんと宇部さん

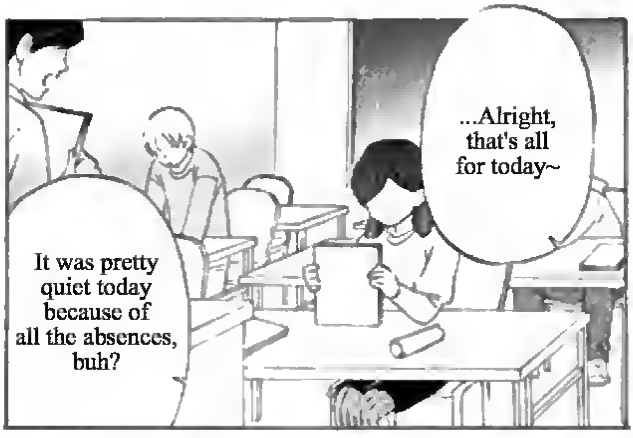
トン
Ah
MOMO

Here, you dropped your eraser
MOMO

Thanks
She goes to a different school
Ube-san is the girl who sits next to me at cram school
I'd really like to talk to her, but we don't have anything in common to talk about
And I want to get to know her better


And she's always with her friends from cram school, so it's hard to find a good time to call out to her
We only walk in the same direction going bome for a little bit


Everyone sbould be careful so that they don't catcb a cold, too!


It was pretty quiet today because of all the absences, buh?
...Alright, that's all for today~

Ah, could it be that-

It's just the two of us walking home together today?
We both turn left when we leave the cram school
And then we only have about fifty meters together before she turns again
"Bye~ see you later"
She wouldn't think it's weird if I just said something like that... right?

Ube-san, Bye~ see you later
Okay
.....
.....

...and she's gone

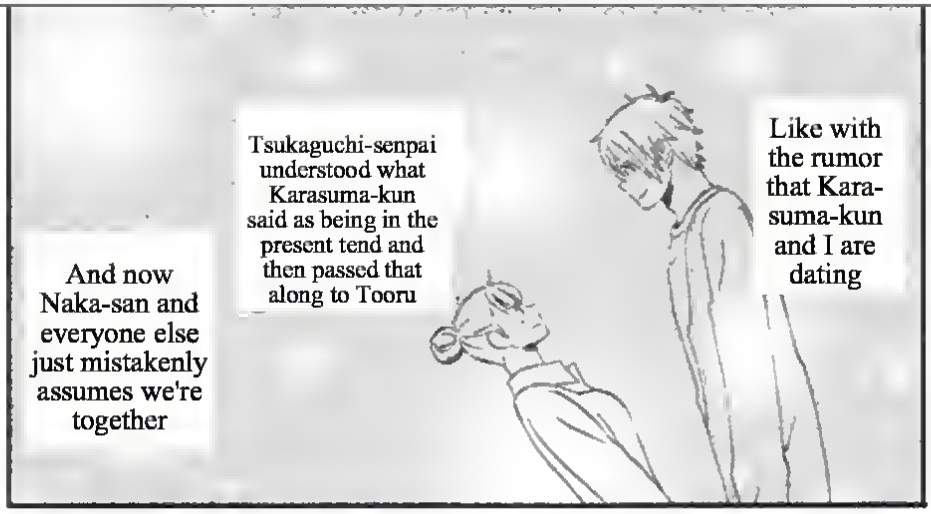
But there weren't any particularly good chances after that
.....
...maybe I'll get another chance...

But then
It should have ended like any other bittersweet childhood regret
The cram school was only for elementary schoolers so once we became middle schoolers, we lost contact with each other
Um, my name's Takatsuki Minato
And I really like visiting Japanese castles~
And then
By some miracle, we were reunited

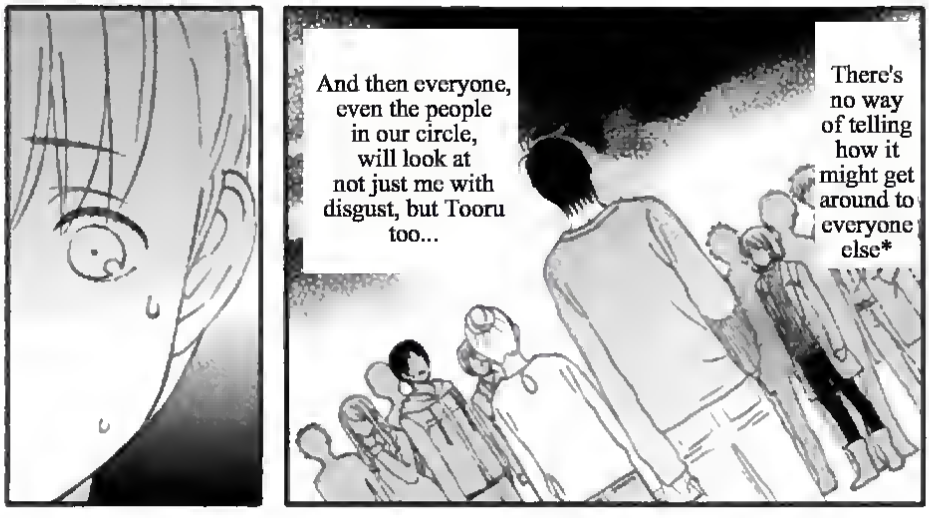
We just fit together so perfectly
If I had just gotten up the courage to talk to her that day walking home from cram school, I'm sure we would have heen friends
We started dating
I was drunk on my new-found happiness
And more than just friends, we could have become lovers that much sooner
Until she sud-denly hroke up with me
I'm in love with someone else...!

...and then I found out who the guy she dumped me for-
I tried so hard to make it seem like I was fine with giving up on her, but I couldn't let go of my feelings
I'm sorry, but .....
Really is.....
Please, for Tooru's sake...
I couldn't help it that I couldn't give up on her
Please promise me you won't tell him

I won't do it for free, you know?
I got it, I promise
But
I mean, how could I when our reunion felt so much like some kind of fate?
.....
Could get horribly distorted as it gets passed from one person to the next...
Just a single piece of infor-mation


Like with the rumor that Karasuma-kun and I are dating
Tsukaguchi-senpai understood what Karasuma-kun said as being in the present tend and then passed that along to Tooru
And now Naka-san and everyone else just mistakenly assumes we're together

If Karasuma-kun revealed that Tooru's girlfriend is actually his older sister...
But it's not like I can guarantee anything
Well, even if you don't give me anything, I might not tell anyone


And then everyone, even the people in our circle, will look at not just me with disgust, but Tooru too...
There's no way of telling how it might get around to everyone else*

Wait
I'll take my leave. Thanks for the chocolate
Sorry I talked about some-thing weird...
I want... your guarantee that you won't
Tell anyone
What do I need to do in order to guarantee your silence?

Here are your Valentine's chocolates from us~~!
Wow~ They're so cute~
It's okay if you don't get us anything~
Because now I have to come up with something to give you guys in return
Obligation chocolates are just a pain to receive
I'm very grateful
Thank you!

93 TL/N: I figure most of you know this already, hut hoys are expected to get something for all the girls that gave them presents for Valentine's Day on White Day (March 14th). Normally, it's just a candy or something and it's almost always white. Also, these are ohligation chocolates, which are given to friends and coworkers, as opposed to confession chocolates, which are give to significant others.

Yep
I just want everyone to enjoy this splendid day when everyhody gets to eat delicious chocolates together!
I het the candy industry loves you guys

*Isn't it fine like that!

Oh, Yeah, I handed them over to him
Minacchi, you gave them to Karasuma-kun, so they should have gotten to everyone hy now, right?
I got the same kind of chocolates for everyone at U Universtiy~

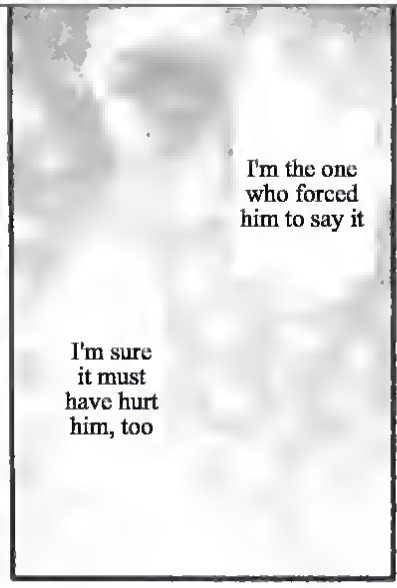
...Why would Karasuma-kun ask me for something like that...
Let's get back together
I don't care if you don't think it makes sense
But that's...!
ヒ
!
Sorry
What, really~? But I wanted to eat chocolate with you~
Well... I have plans later, so I think I'm gonna head out
Fu fu fu It's my animal instincts!
Don't you mean your women's intuition...?
Geh... Wh-why do you ask...?
Could it be a date with Karasuma-kun?

Bye bye~
Oh
He scared me
I'm going to get the drinks for everyone
Huh?
Are you going back home, too??
No
R-really? ...Must be your imagination
You're acting kinda weird today
Ah ha ha
Huh?
...You alright?

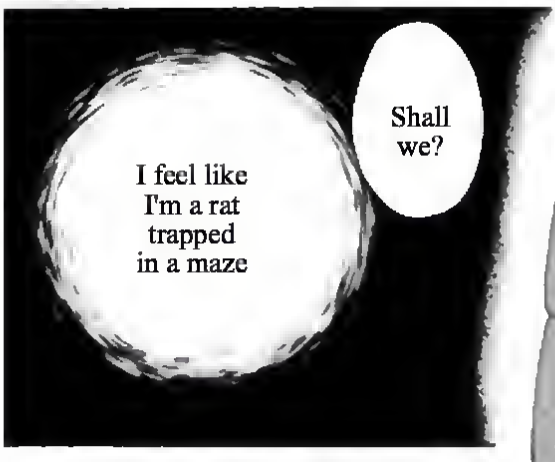
Okay, if you say so
Bye
It's probably because I essentially got back together with Karasuma-kun
Despite the fact that Mina hasn't broken up with Tooru yet
So I was acting weird, buh
He can't figure out who Mina really is and yet he can be weirdly perceptive at times...
.....
Ahh... After all this,
Even if I tell myself that I'm doing this because I'm trying to protect Tooru at all costs, at the end of the day, I'm still cheating on him

How did I get myself into this?
Crap
I'm definitely going to hell...
...There's no way that he's doing this out of pure romantic interest...
I'm not in the position to turn him down, so now we're going on a date
It's Valentine's Day, so meet me after your done with school and we'll go on a date
Even today
I have no idea what Karasuma-kun is thinking
He's not the kind of person who would say things like that
Or he wasn't
I won't do it for free, you know?
So could this be some sort of... revenge? Because I treated him so cruelly?

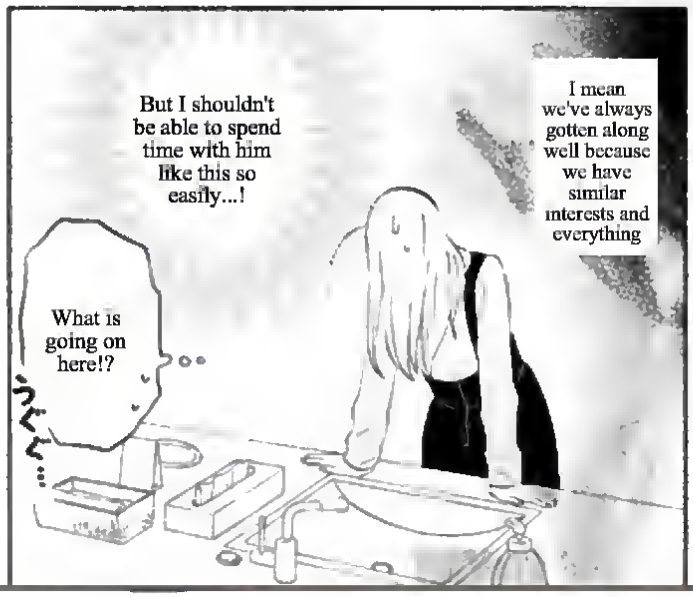
I can't ask for Maki-chan's advice on this, either
What's gonna happen to me...

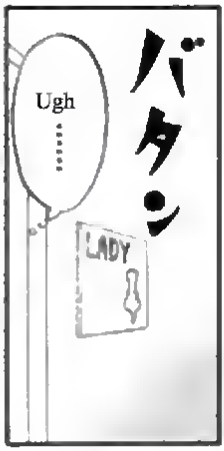

I'm the one who forced him to say it
I'm sure it must have hurt him, too

That's okay
S-sorry I'm late...


Shall we?
I feel like I'm a rat trapped in a maze

I'll be right back
Okay


But I shouldn't be able to spend time with him like this so easily...!
I mean we've always gotten along well because we have similar interests and everything
What is going on here!?


バタン
Ugh
LADY

Oh, no, that's okay. It's not like I can't walk
...Do you want to rest somewhere?
Should we go?
Okay
Yeah

Yeah
You okay?
Sorry, I think the alcohol's starting to get to me
.....
ぼー…

I didn't mean anything weird by that, okay?
No, I just...
Hm?
Where?
Rest
Ah-ah ha ha

.....
.....

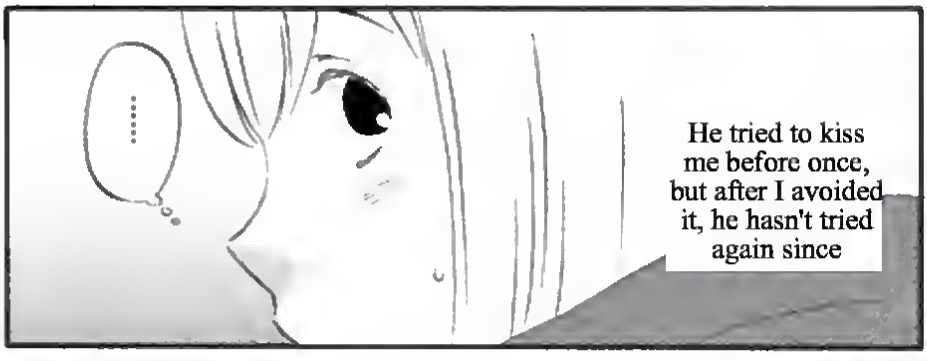
Thank you very much~
B 1

I thought he was asking if I wanted to go to a love hotel!
I just about had a heart attack

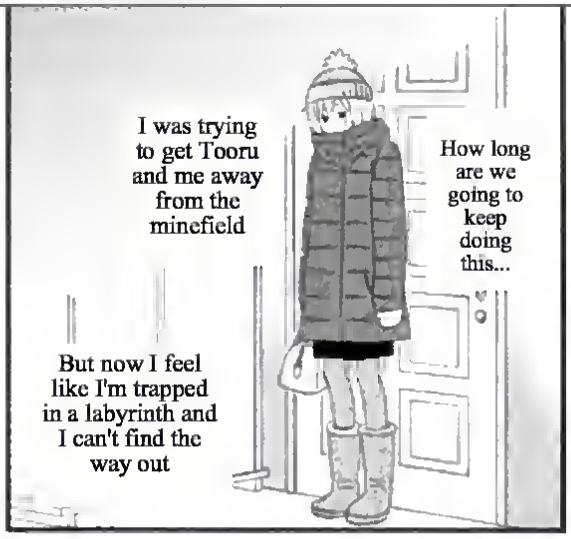
Here
.....

I know!
Ugh, I can't believe it's still so cold out

Now that I think about it, Karasuma-kun and I never went further than holding hands
.....
Nothing like Tooru and Mina's relationship


.....
He tried to kiss me before once, but after I avoided it, he hasn't tried again since

But even still, be's treating me with as mucb tenderness as wben we went out before
And right now, we're just dating because it's the price for his silence
He really cared about me
He must have treasured me
I feel so guilty it's eating me alive
If this is how Karasuma-kun is taking his revenge on me, then it's working


I was trying to get Tooru and me away from the minefield
How long are we going to keep doing this...
But now I feel like I'm trapped in a labyrinth and I can't find the way out

Good night
Well then, I guess this is good night

Was there ever a way out to begin with...?

Welcome back, Minato~

I'm home~